1/5/71

Dear Emory,

Spent the afternoon with the local FBI agent, who phoned about my letter to Hoover. I gather that had he not been using up leave he'd otherwise have lost, he'd have phoned me sooner. They have undescribed interest in the bullet (if only, I suppose, because they thought we might holler), and I gave him the three samples you sent me, the one you found, the pulled duplicate and the M-c. I also gave him the marked part of the plat you gave me, showing exactly where it was found, and Dick's conjecture on the possibility of it's having been fired from a Russian rifle.

He understands clearly that we are not suggesting anything more than a ghoulish trick, but that we also feel npthing should be left unchecked, and that it was a particularly strange kind of humor. I did suggest that the color difference between the found and the pulled bullets suggest aging, but that in and of itself, it had no meaning. I also told him that none of us believe it couldhave reached this point after having been fired from the official and other more-likely places, that it could not have been where you found it for long before you found it, etc.

I told him it had nothing but souvenir value to you, andthat if the bureau desires to keep it, it is okay with you. In this even, I asked him to supply two pictures, one for you, as a souvenir, and one for me in the event I ever excoriate the unknown perpe trator os so sick a thing.

I did not use your name, or Dicks, but I read him the appropriate parts of your letters and of Dick on that Russian rifle, pointing out also that Dick knew no more than what I'd told him and that this was something that occurred to him as a possibility, no more. But I added that of all the rifles, if this one turned out to be the kind used, it was a special kind of ghoulishness.

While he was here, I got two phpne calls. In one, with Jim, I was a bit inhibited, as Jim will understand tomorrow, when I see him. You do not know Jim, but it was a good thing, in retrospect, because Jim and I discussed my apprehensions about the misuse of what in my opinion had been declassified when it shouldn't have been.

At some point, I suppose I'll be hearing further. When I do, you will.

If there remains no basis for believing this is significant, I think we have also done the right thing. I guess Hoover or his boys think we are trying to trap them in some way, as we are not, but there is nothing like this, ghoulish or not, that should not be checked out, and they alone can do that. And should.

Hastily,